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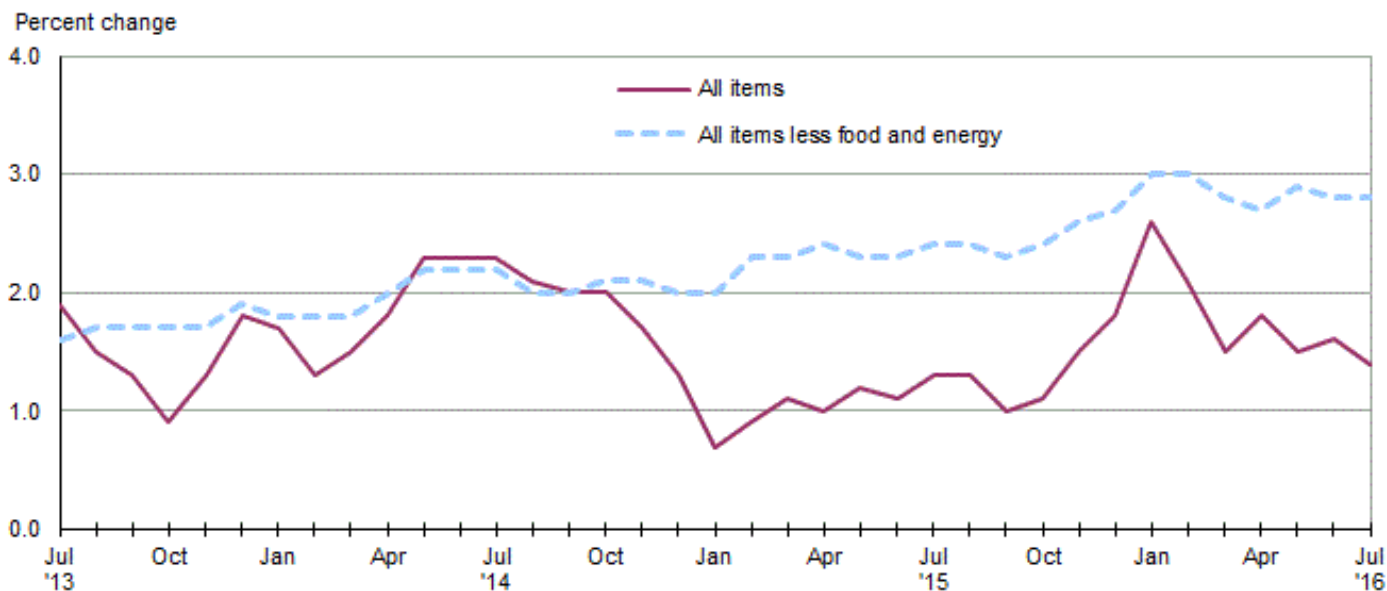
Consumer Price Index, West Region — July 2016

Area prices were up 0.1 percent over the past month, up 1.4 percent from a year ago

Prices in the West Region, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), inched up 0.1 percent in July, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See [table A](#).) The July increase was influenced by higher prices for shelter. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the CPI-U rose 1.4 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) Energy prices dropped 12.4 percent, largely the result of a decrease in the price of gasoline. The index for all items less food and energy rose 2.8 percent over the year. (See [table 1](#).) This is the ninth month that this index has increased by more than 2.5 percent. (See [chart 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, West region, July 2013–July 2016



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices were unchanged for the month of July. (See [table 1.](#)) Prices for food at home inched down 0.2 percent, but prices for food away from home edged up 0.2 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices advanced 0.9 percent. Prices for food away from home advanced 4.2 percent since a year ago, but prices for food at home declined 1.4 percent.

Energy

The energy index edged down 0.1 percent over the month. The decrease was mainly due to lower prices for gasoline (-1.1 percent). Prices for electricity increased 0.3 percent, and prices for natural gas service increased 3.3 percent in the same period.

Energy prices dropped 12.4 percent over the year, largely due to lower prices for gasoline (-22.8 percent). Prices paid for natural gas service decreased 1.3 percent, while prices for electricity advanced 2.2 percent, during the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy inched up 0.1 percent in July. Higher prices for shelter (0.5 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for apparel (-1.7 percent) and education and communication (-0.4 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy rose 2.8 percent. Components contributing to the increase included shelter (4.8 percent) and medical care (3.4 percent). Slightly offsetting the increases were price declines in household furnishings and operations (-0.5 percent) and education and communication (-0.2 percent).

Table A. West Region CPI-U monthly and annual percent changes (not seasonally adjusted)

Month	2011		2012		2013		2014		2015		2016	
	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual
January.....	0.5	1.4	0.4	2.6	0.3	1.7	0.3	1.7	-0.3	0.7	0.5	2.6
February.....	0.6	1.9	0.4	2.5	0.8	2.0	0.4	1.3	0.6	0.9	0.1	2.1
March.....	0.9	2.6	0.9	2.4	0.4	1.5	0.6	1.5	0.8	1.1	0.2	1.5
April.....	0.6	3.0	0.2	2.1	0.0	1.3	0.3	1.8	0.3	1.0	0.5	1.8
May.....	0.3	3.2	0.2	2.0	0.2	1.3	0.6	2.3	0.8	1.2	0.5	1.5
June.....	-0.2	3.1	-0.2	2.0	0.1	1.5	0.1	2.3	0.0	1.1	0.2	1.6
July.....	-0.1	2.9	-0.3	1.8	0.0	1.9	0.1	2.3	0.3	1.3	0.1	1.4
August.....	0.2	3.0	0.5	2.1	0.1	1.5	-0.1	2.1	-0.1	1.3		
September.....	0.4	3.5	0.5	2.2	0.2	1.3	0.1	2.0	-0.2	1.0		
October.....	0.0	3.4	0.4	2.5	-0.1	0.9	-0.1	2.0	0.0	1.1		
November.....	-0.2	3.2	-0.7	1.9	-0.4	1.3	-0.6	1.7	-0.2	1.5		
December.....	-0.3	2.7	-0.5	1.7	0.0	1.8	-0.5	1.3	-0.1	1.8		

The August 2016 Consumer Price Index for the West Region is scheduled to be released on September 16, 2016.

Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 89 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 28 percent of the total population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 87 urban areas across the country from about 6,000 housing units and approximately 24,000 retail establishments--department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date (1982-84) that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at www.bls.gov/cpi and the BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index, available on the Internet at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch17_a.htm.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **NOTE:Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The West Region covered in this release is comprised of the following thirteen states: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

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Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods West (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	May 2016	Jun. 2016	Jul. 2016	Jul. 2015	May 2016	Jun. 2016
Expenditure category						
All Items.....	247.885	248.267	248.412	1.4	0.2	0.1
All items (December 1977=100).....	400.692	401.310	401.545			
Food and beverages.....	251.836	251.503	251.396	0.9	-0.2	0.0
Food.....	251.885	251.582	251.483	0.9	-0.2	0.0
Food at home.....	247.094	246.086	245.520	-1.4	-0.6	-0.2
Food away from home.....	257.433	258.137	258.704	4.2	0.5	0.2
Alcoholic beverages.....	247.867	247.140	246.919	1.5	-0.4	-0.1
Housing.....	263.822	264.688	265.868	4.0	0.8	0.4
Shelter.....	299.726	300.867	302.297	4.8	0.9	0.5
Rent of primary residence ⁽¹⁾	314.318	315.746	317.191	5.3	0.9	0.5
Owners' equiv. rent of residences ^{(1) (2)}	314.216	315.603	317.070	4.9	0.9	0.5
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence ^{(1) (2)}	314.220	315.608	317.077	4.9	0.9	0.5
Fuels and utilities.....	286.787	287.839	289.254	2.4	0.9	0.5
Household energy.....	248.416	249.795	252.217	1.5	1.5	1.0
Energy services ⁽¹⁾	251.024	252.137	254.664	1.4	1.5	1.0
Electricity ⁽¹⁾	279.505	282.011	282.942	2.2	1.2	0.3
Utility (piped) gas service ⁽¹⁾	198.958	196.812	203.315	-1.3	2.2	3.3
Household furnishings and operations.....	129.033	128.832	129.019	-0.5	0.0	0.1
Apparel.....	121.088	118.627	116.579	0.4	-3.7	-1.7
Transportation.....	200.605	202.092	200.972	-6.0	0.2	-0.6
Private transportation.....	193.449	195.078	194.966	-6.1	0.8	-0.1
New and used motor vehicles ⁽³⁾	102.025	101.889	102.117	-0.5	0.1	0.2
New vehicles.....	148.049	147.680	148.294	0.5	0.2	0.4
New cars and trucks ^{(3) (4)}	102.813	102.562	102.996	0.4	0.2	0.4
New cars ⁽⁴⁾	146.181	145.566	145.919	-0.6	-0.2	0.2
Used cars and trucks.....	140.987	140.147	139.344	-4.7	-1.2	-0.6
Motor fuel.....	208.114	214.564	212.239	-22.6	2.0	-1.1
Gasoline (all types).....	207.561	213.878	211.507	-22.8	1.9	-1.1
Gasoline, unleaded regular ⁽⁴⁾	204.948	211.393	208.904	-23.1	1.9	-1.2
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{(4) (5)}	198.716	203.730	202.213	-22.1	1.8	-0.7
Gasoline, unleaded premium ⁽⁴⁾	204.978	210.575	208.772	-21.0	1.9	-0.9
Medical Care.....	469.562	470.348	470.568	3.4	0.2	0.0
Medical care commodities.....	351.696	355.450	357.402	3.4	1.6	0.5
Medical care services.....	507.337	506.997	506.562	3.4	-0.2	-0.1
Professional services.....	350.290	348.961	348.740	2.1	-0.4	-0.1
Recreation ⁽³⁾	112.233	111.839	112.010	0.9	-0.2	0.2
Education and communication ⁽³⁾	138.117	137.905	137.394	-0.2	-0.5	-0.4
Other goods and services.....	407.586	407.374	408.712	1.5	0.3	0.3
Commodity and Service Group						
All Items.....	247.885	248.267	248.412	1.4	0.2	0.1
Commodities.....	179.197	179.038	178.520	-2.6	-0.4	-0.3
Commodities less food & beverages.....	142.993	142.908	142.252	-5.0	-0.5	-0.5
Nondurables less food & beverages.....	179.442	180.153	178.848	-7.0	-0.3	-0.7
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel.....	220.885	223.632	222.769	-9.3	0.9	-0.4
Durables.....	109.372	108.646	108.534	-1.8	-0.8	-0.1
Services.....	311.329	312.230	313.015	3.7	0.5	0.3
Rent of shelter ⁽²⁾	318.938	320.176	321.703	4.8	0.9	0.5
Transportation services.....	293.300	294.653	292.409	2.4	-0.3	-0.8

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods West (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	May 2016	Jun. 2016	Jul. 2016	Jul. 2015	May 2016	Jun. 2016
Other services.....	341.028	341.254	341.692	1.7	0.2	0.1
Special aggregate indexes:						
All items less medical care.....	237.756	238.120	238.262	1.2	0.2	0.1
All items less food.....	247.435	247.924	248.107	1.4	0.3	0.1
All items less shelter.....	228.022	228.083	227.681	-0.5	-0.1	-0.2
Commodities less food.....	146.937	146.835	146.185	-4.7	-0.5	-0.4
Nondurables.....	215.553	215.785	215.023	-2.8	-0.2	-0.4
Nondurables less food.....	184.472	185.106	183.854	-6.4	-0.3	-0.7
Nondurables less food and apparel.....	223.148	225.582	224.777	-8.3	0.7	-0.4
Services less rent of shelter ⁽²⁾	336.834	337.394	337.286	2.3	0.1	0.0
Services less medical care services.....	297.715	298.693	299.554	3.7	0.6	0.3
Energy.....	228.495	232.755	232.523	-12.4	1.8	-0.1
All items less energy.....	251.366	251.462	251.636	2.5	0.1	0.1
All items less food and energy.....	252.047	252.210	252.432	2.8	0.2	0.1
Commodities less food and energy commodities.....	140.707	139.804	139.347	-0.6	-1.0	-0.3
Energy commodities.....	212.077	218.754	216.414	-22.1	2.0	-1.1
Services less energy services.....	315.969	316.860	317.539	3.8	0.5	0.2

⁽¹⁾ This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

⁽²⁾ Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

⁽³⁾ Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

⁽⁴⁾ Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

⁽⁵⁾ Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

Regions defined as the four Census regions. West includes Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date. Data not seasonally adjusted.